

What is claimed is:

1. An archery target comprising:  
one or more target elements arranged in at least one stack, the  
target elements comprising side edges oriented toward a target face; and  
5 a polymeric covering layer extending across the side edges to  
comprise the target face.
2. The archery target of claim 1 comprising a plurality of  
target faces.
- 10 3. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the polymeric  
covering layer substantially surrounds the stack of target elements.
4. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the polymeric  
15 covering layer substantially surrounds the side edges of the target elements to  
form a plurality of target faces.
5. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the polymeric  
covering layer provides a compressive force on the target elements.
- 20 6. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer  
comprises a generally uniform thickness relative to the side edges of the target  
elements along the target face.
- 25 7. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer  
comprises a first thickness relative to the side edges of the target elements along a  
first target face and a second thickness along a second target face.

8. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a generally variable thickness along the target face relative to the side edges of the target elements.

5 9. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the side edges of the target elements adjacent to the target face comprise a generally planar configuration.

10 10. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the side edges of the target elements adjacent to the target face comprise a generally curvilinear configuration.

11. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the stack of target elements comprises two discrete stacks of target elements.

15 12. The archery target of claim 11 wherein the discrete stacks of target elements comprise one or more different materials and/or different shapes.

20 13. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the target elements comprise a plurality of generally planar foam target elements.

14. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the side edges comprise reduced profile edges.

25 15. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the target elements comprise a foam material having a density selected in the range of about 2 pounds per square foot to about 10 pounds per square foot.

16. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a foam material.

17. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer  
5 comprises a compliant, deformable and resilient polymeric material.

18. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a reinforcing structure.

19. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer  
10 comprises a thickness of at least 0.25 inches.

20. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a thickness of at least 1 inch.

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21. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer is compatible with the material of the target elements.

22. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer  
20 comprises a self-healing material.

23. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a molded material.

24. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer  
25 comprises a homogenous material.

25. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a reinforcing material.

26. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a liquid coating applied to at least the side edges.

5 27. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a sheet material bonded to at least the side edges.

28. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises one of a foam, a film, a non-woven web, a liquid coating, or a  
10 combination thereof.

29. The archery target of claim 1 comprising straps surrounding the stack of targets elements.

15 30. The archery target of claim 1 wherein the archery target comprises a free standing archery target.

31. The archery target of claim 1 comprising indicia on at least one target face.

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32. A three-dimensional archery target comprising a chamber containing the archery target of claim 1.

33. The archery target of claim 32 wherein the chamber  
25 comprises first and second generally opposing surfaces adapted to apply a compressive force to the target elements.

34. The archery target of claim 32 comprising one or more displacement mechanisms adapted to apply a compressive force to the archery target.

5                    35. The archery target of claim 32 wherein the chamber comprises at least one surface adapted to mechanically couple with the archery target.

10                   36. The archery target of claim 32 wherein the three-dimensional archery target simulates an animal.

                    37. An archery target comprising:  
                    one or more planar target elements arranged in at least one stack, the stack of planar target elements subject to a compressive force on a major  
15                   surface thereof, the target elements comprising a plurality of side edges oriented toward a target face; and  
                    a polymeric covering layer extending across the side edges to comprise the target face.

20                   38. A method of making an archery target, comprising the steps of:  
                    arranging one or more target elements in a generally stacked configuration, the target elements comprising a plurality of side edge oriented toward a target face; and  
25                   locating a polymeric covering layer across the side edges and comprising the target face.

                    39. The method of claim 38 comprising locating a polymeric covering layer along a plurality of target faces.

40. The method of claim 38 comprising substantially surrounding the stack over target elements with the polymeric covering layer.

5                   41. The method of claim 38 comprising substantially surrounding the side edges of the target elements with the polymeric covering layer and forming a plurality of target faces.

                  42. The method of claim 38 comprising applying a compressive  
10 force on a major surface of the target elements using the polymeric covering layer.

                  43. The method of claim 38 comprising applying the covering layer with a generally uniform thickness relative to the side edges of the target  
15 elements along the target face.

                  44. The method of claim 38 comprising applying the covering layer with a generally variable thickness relative to the side edges of the target elements along the target face.

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                  45. The method of claim 38 comprising arranging the side edges of the target elements adjacent to the target face in a generally planar configuration.

25                   46. The method of claim 38 comprising arranging the side edges of the target elements adjacent to the target face in a generally curvilinear configuration.

47. The method of claim 38 comprising arranging two discrete stacks of target elements in the archery target.

5 48. The method of claim 38 comprising arranging a first discrete stacks of target elements adjacent to a first target face and arranging a second stack of target elements adjacent a second target face.

49. The method of claim 38 wherein the target elements comprise a plurality of generally planar foam material.

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50. The method of claim 38 comprising deforming the side edges of the target elements to create reduced profile side edges.

51. The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises a foam material.

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52. The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises a compliant, deformable and resilient polymeric material.

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53. The method of claim 38 comprising locating a reinforcing structure in the covering layer.

54. The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises a thickness of at least 0.25 inches.

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55. The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises a thickness of at least 1 inch.

56. The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer is compatible with the material of the target elements.

57. The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer  
5 comprises a self-healing material.

58. The method of claim 38 comprising molding the covering layer onto the side edges.

59. The method of claim 58 wherein the step of molding  
10 includes compressing the target elements.

60. The method of claim 38 comprising applying a liquid covering layer to the side edges.

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61. The method of claim 38 comprising the steps of:  
bonding a polymeric sheet material to the side edges; and  
sealing any seams on the sheet material.

62. The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer  
20 comprises one of a foam, film, non-woven web, liquid coating, or a combination thereof.

63. The method of claim 38 comprising wrapping the target  
25 elements with straps.

64. The method of claim 38 comprising applying heat and/or pressure to the archery target to apply a compressive force on the target elements.